ANTICHRIST *Revealed according to the Word of* GOD.

A

SERMON

Preached at

IPSWICH,

November *the Fifth*, 1728.

WHEREIN

Many Texts of Scripture, relating to Antichriſt, are unfolded, which may help to the more profitable Reading and Underſtanding of many Portions of Scripture.

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BEING brought hither, this Day, by kind Providence, to call to our thankful Remembrance, the great Deliverance which God wrought for theſe Nations, in ſaving us out of the Hands of our popiſh Enemies; that we might be duly affected with our Mercies, and the more chearfully unite our Hearts and Voices in the Praiſes of God our Saviour; I have choſen that Portion of Scripture, for a Foundation of a few Thoughts, proper to the Occaſion.

2 THES. ii. 8.

And then ſhall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord ſhall conſume with the Spirit of his Mouth, and ſhall deſtroy with the Brightneſs of his Coming.

IT ſeems that the *Theſſalonians* lay under a Miſtake, in thinking that the ſecond Coming of our Lord was then juſt at hand. But the Apoſtle tells them, that there ſhould come a Falling away firſt; and then [or after that] ſhould the Man of Sin be revealed, *&c.*

In our Text we may obſerve theſe four Parts:

1. A Deſcription of the great Antichriſt, the Head of the Antichriſtian State, and Popiſh Apoſtacy from the Purity of Chriſtian Doctrines and Worſhip: He is ſet forth by his wicked Diſpoſition and Practice — *That Wicked*; which is not intended of any one Man; but a Succeſſion of Men, or rather the whole popiſh Church, under the Government and Direction of the Pope. And ſo *that Wicked*, may refer to the wicked Head of the Church, or to the whole popiſh Hierarchy, which, from the Head to the Tail is a moſt wicked Body, *Iſa.* ix. 15, 16.

2. That this *Wicked* one ſhould be revealed in Goſpel Times; or ſhould appear more openly, than he did in the Time of the Apoſtle. He ſhall

ſhall be plainly ſeen to match exactly with the Deſcription of him, in the holy Scriptures.

3. That whoever he is, he is doom'd to be deſtroy'd, and the Lord himſelf will deſtroy him —— *Whom the Lord ſhall conſume*, &c. Thus he is *the Son of Perdition*, ver. 3.

4. The Means of his Deſtruction are alſo expreſſed, and that ſhall be done *by the Spirit of his Mouth, and by the Brightneſs of his Coming*, i. e. by the Light, Purity and Power of the Goſpel.

There are three Things that I ſhall do in ſpeaking to theſe Words.

I. I ſhall ſhew you how Antichriſt, or *that Wicked*, is revealed; or how he ſhews himſelf, now in theſe Times, to be the Man of Sin, which the Apoſtle deſcribes.

II. I ſhall alſo ſhew you, That he is to be deſtroyed, and how it is to be done.

III. I ſhall make ſome proper Application.

I. I ſhall ſhew you how *that Wicked* one, the great Antichriſt, the *Man of Sin*, is now revealed.

And there are many Ways whereby God has done this in the holy Scriptures.

Firſt, By divers Names that it has pleaſed the Holy Ghoſt to give him.

1. *That Wicked*, the moſt lawleſs one; that breaks all the Bands of Jeſus Chriſt, and caſts away his Cords. This is ſomething like that Mark of Infamy, whereby that wicked King of *Iſrael* was deſcribed; 1 *Kings* xxi. 25. *This is that wicked* Ahab. So here, this is *that Wicked*, in whom all manner of Wickedneſs centers or meets.

[1.] All

[1.] All Blaſphemies, *Rev.* xiii. 5, 6. *And there was given to him a Mouth, ſpeaking great Things and Blaſphemies* —— *And he opened his Mouth in Blaſphemies againſt God.* This he does, as he is called God; *Our Lord God the Pope*; Univerſal Head of the Church; Father of all Chriſtians; the Foundation of Faith; Lord of Lords; Univerſal and infallible Judge; Living Fountain of all Righteouſneſs; and has been affirm'd to have thoſe Excellencies in him that belong to Jeſus Chriſt. And more than all this, he is ſaid to exalt himſelf above all that is called God; not only above all Kings of the Earth, but even above God himſelf: For he ſets up new Doctrines and Worſhip in the Church, contrary to the Word of God, and impoſes them upon others on Pain of Excommunication. Thus ſome of their moſt approved Writers have roundly affirmed, That if the Pope ſhould command Vices and forbid Virtues; Men muſt believe the Vices to be good and the Virtues to be evil. [*Bel. de Sum. Pont. lib.* 4. *c.* 5.] Others have ſaid, that the Pope's Determinations are to be preferred before the Scriptures: And, that the Scriptures have no Authority to command our Faith, 'till the Pope has firſt canonized them.

[2.] All fatal Errors alſo meet in this *Man of Sin.* He corrupts the holy Scriptures, and makes void the Law of God by unwritten Traditions.

[3.] All Deceit and Hypocriſy meet in him, *ver.* 10. — *With all Deceiveableneſs of Unrighteouſneſs, in them that periſh.* Under Pretence of Love to Chriſt and his People, he takes away the Honour of Chriſt and the Lives of his Diſciples,

ciples, *Rev.* xiii. 11. *He had Horns as a Lamb* [as if he would hurt no Body with his Power] *but he ſpake as a Dragon.* Thus he is like *a Wolf in Sheeps Clothing:* Under a Pretence of Humility, while he ſtiles himſelf, *The Servant of the Servants* of *Chriſt*, he endeavours to make Princes, Kings and Emperors, Subjects and Servants to him. Thus he is ſaid *to ſpeak Lies in Hypocriſy*, 1 Tim. iv. 1, 2.

[4.] All Superſtition and Idolatry: Bowing to, and worſhiping of Images, Saints, Angels, the Croſs, the Altars, Pictures, Tombs, and thouſands of Relicks, Sticks, Stones and Straws.

[5.] That moſt cruel, bloody Man; the Head of that bloody Church, that affirms it to be meritorious to kill Hereticks [as they term all Proteſtants.] Thus the Head of the *Roman* Church is called *that Wicked:* And agreeable thereto, he is alſo called *the Man of Sin*, ver. 3. It is an Hebraiſm, put for that ſinful Man, the chief of Sinners; that Abettor as well as Actor of Sin.

(1.) They practiſe Sin themſelves; for Hiſtory informs us, that the Heads of the Church of *Rome* have been ſome of the vileſt Men upon the Face of the Earth.

(2.) They incourage others to Sin; putting them on to rebel againſt their lawful Princes, to make War, to ſhed innocent Blood, to falſify Oaths, and break Covenant.

(3.) Giving Diſpenſations to others to commit Sin, Pardons and Indulgences to ſuch as would do their Church Service; Forgiving all Sins paſt, and their Sins for many Years to come; provided they would poiſon a Prince, that ſtood in their Way, or pray for the ſafe delivery of a favourite Lady.

(4.) That

(4.) They ſell Pardons, to ſuch as can find Money: This is their Trade and Market, as much as any Thing can be to another Man, to get Money by. That's the firſt Name by which Antichriſt is deſcribed here; *that Wicked, that Man of Sin.*

2. He is called *Babylon*: For as old *Babylon* in the Eaſt, perſecuted and deſtroy'd the *Jews*; ſo this *Babylon*, in the Weſt, has perſecuted and murder'd the *Chriſtians*, Rev. xvii. 5. *Upon her Forehead was a Name written, Myſtery,* Babylon *the great, the Mother of Harlots, and Abominations of the Earth.* It is *Babylon* myſtically or ſpiritually taken. If this Church had not been ſadly corrupted in Doctrine and Worſhip, it had not been called an *Harlot*, and the *Mother of Harlots*, and of all Abominations. How differing is this Deſcription of the Church of *Rome* from the Character ſhe gives of her ſelf; ſhe pretends to be the only Spouſe of Jeſus Chriſt, the true Bride, the Lamb's Wife: And alſo affirms that there is no Salvation out of the Church of *Rome:* But God calls her an *Harlot*, and the *Mother of Harlots*; that is, the greateſt Apoſtate from the pure Doctrines and Ordinances of Jeſus Chriſt and his Goſpel.

3. The great Head of the *Roman* Church is called *Antichriſt*; that's another of his Names: That Word ſignifies one that is *againſt Jeſus Chriſt.* He pretends to honour the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and to be his Vicar; but in many Things, he caſts the higheſt Affront upon him.

[1.] The Pope is againſt Jeſus Chriſt, as he is againſt the Doctrines of Chriſt.

They, like the *Phariſees* of old, make void the Law of God by their unwritten Traditions,

and

and teach for Doctrines the Commandments of Men.

(1.) They forbid the Laity the Uſe of the Bible in their own Tongue, contrary to the expreſs Charge of our Saviour to all his Diſciples, *John* v. 39. *Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal Life, and they are they that teſtify of me.* The Church of *Rome* forbids the Uſe of the Scriptures; becauſe, they ſay, that *Ignorance is the Mother of Devotion*; or Ignorance is a Help to their worſhiping the more devoutly: But God has ſaid, that *without Knowledge the Heart*, or Soul, *is not good.* But the true Reaſon of their forbidding the Uſe of the Scriptures, ſeems plainly to be this; becauſe the People ſhall not ſee and judge for themſelves, and ſearch whether thoſe Things are ſo, as they affirm; whether they are founded upon the Word of God: If not, they have no Place in our holy Religion, whatever may be pleaded for them.

(2.) They blot out the ſecond Commandment from their Decalogue; becauſe it expreſsly forbids the Worſhiping of God by Images. And leſt the People ſhould be offended, that there are but nine Commandments, they divide the Tenth into Two, to make up Ten. This is a moſt impious Thing, and is moſt dangerous to Souls; for God has ſaid, *Rev.* xxii. 18. If any one ſhall blot out any of the Things written in this Book, God will blot his Name out of the Book of Life: Beſides, this is moſt ridiculous as well as ſinful; for when the Tenth Commandment is divided into two Parts; both of them forbid the ſame Thing, that is, the Sin of Covetouſneſs.

(3.) They command the Worſhiping of Saints and Angels, and the Virgin *Mary*; all which they honour more than Jeſus Chriſt: They dedicate their Churches to Saints; and if there are ten Churches in a Town, you ſeldom hear of Chriſt's Church among them. And ſo in their Prayers; the Virgin *Mary*, and other Saints, have more Prayers from them than Jeſus Chriſt: Thus, like the *Gentiles*, *they change the Truth of God into a Lie, and worſhip and ſerve the Creature more than the Creator, who is bleſſed for ever*, Rom. i. 25. Thus Popery is but refined Heatheniſm, in worſhiping Shrines, Images, Pictures, the Croſs, old Rags, Duſt and Vermin, pretended to have been taken from the Bodies of the Saints.

(4.) They teach Men to truſt to the Merit of their own Works, or to the Merits of the Church for Salvation, inſtead of truſting to the Merits of our Saviour. Though every one ought to ſerve God, the beſt he can, yet we cannot be ſaved by *Works of Righteouſneſs which we have done, but by the Mercy* and Grace of God, through the Merits of Chriſt, *Tit.* iii. 15. We muſt *not be ſlothful in Buſineſs*, that is, in our Chriſtian Work; but be *fervent in Spirit, ſerving the Lord*, Rom. xii. 11. But when we have done all, we muſt *count our ſelves unprofitable Servants*, and muſt have all our Dependance and Hope in the Righteouſneſs of Chriſt, as though we had done nothing Good; for we have done but what was our Duty to do, *Luke* xvii. 10.

(5.) They ſet up more Mediators between God and Men, than God has appointed.

There is but one God, and one Mediator between God and Man, the Man Chriſt Jeſus. But Papiſts have found out many more, even all the Saints,

and

and they make more Uſe of the Saints of the Pope's making, as Mediators, than they do of Jeſus Chriſt. I might here have added, their Order and Cuſtom of Praying in an unknown Tongue, unto which the common People cannot ſay *Amen*; becauſe they do not underſtand it; and alſo their unſcriptural Doctrine of Purgatory, the pretended Place of Fire, to purify the Dead, and make them fit for Heaven; and their Prayers and Sacrifices for the Dead as well as for the Living: But ſo much may ſuffice to have been ſaid on that Head, namely, that the Pope is Antichriſt; for he is againſt the Doctrines of Jeſus Chriſt.

[2.] The Pope is againſt the Ordinances of Jeſus Chriſt, in corrupting the Sacraments of the New Teſtament, either by changing them, or by adding many others to them. As,

(1.) The Sacrament of Water-Baptiſm, which ought to be adminiſtred with *pure Water*; they add Salt, Cream, and Spittle with it.

(2.) They have brought many Corruptions into the Sacrament of the Lord's-Supper: They take away the Cup from the Laity, and the Prieſt alone drinks the Wine, contrary to Mat. xxvi. 27. *And he took the Cup and gave Thanks, and gave it to them, ſaying, Drink ye all of it.* In their Sacrament, there is no *breaking of Bread*; for they give Wafers inſtead of it: And they make the Maſs or the Lord's-Supper a Sacrifice for the Dead and Living; whereby they undervalue the *One Offering* of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, which needs none of their Additions.

(3.) Unto the *Two Sacraments* of the New Teſtament they have added *five more*, and ſo make them up *ſeven:* Thus they pretend to be

wiſer than Chriſt himſelf, who is Lord in his own Houſe.

4. They bow to Images, the Croſs, and Relicks of pretended Saints: Hence they are called *Egypt*; becauſe as the *Egyptians* worſhiped every ſordid Thing; ſuch as Onions and Garlick, *&c.* ſo do the Papiſts worſhip Sticks, Straws and Rags, Duſt and Vermin, becauſe they pretend that theſe had been near the Bodies of ſome of their Saints. They alſo worſhip the Hoſt, or the Relicks of the Wafer; and if any bit of that Wafer ſhould fall to the Ground, they muſt *lick it* up, and *ſcrape the Ground*, and reduce it to Aſhes, and lay it up among their Relicks to be worſhiped: To all which we may add, their Croſſing themſelves, their holy Oil, their Beads, their Baptizing of Bells, *&c.* And ſome of them have affirmed that they may worſhip the Lips of *Judas*, becauſe they kiſſed Chriſt, or the Legs of the Aſs that he rode on, or Pieces of the Croſs that he ſuffered on, or the Virgin *Mary*'s Shift; with a thouſand other Relicks, which they pretend to have preſerved to this Day. Thus it is ſaid, that though the firſt Beaſt [that is, *Rome Pagan*] received its deadly Wound, yet it was healed again, by the two-horned Beaſt [that is, the Pope] *Rev.* xiii. 12. by his bringing into the *Romiſh* Church the worſhiping of Images and Relicks, *&c.*

Thus I have ſhewn how Antichriſt is deſcribed by his Names, and how he is revealed, by anſwering to thoſe Names; and that is the firſt general Head.

Secondly, The great Antichriſt is alſo revealed by the *Number of his Name*, Rev. xiii. 18. *Here is Wiſdom* [here is Work for a wiſe Man] *let him*

that

that hath Underſtanding count the Number of the Beaſt; for it is the Number of a Man; and his Number is 666.

The *Greeks*, in whoſe Language this Myſtery was written, do not number by Figures, as we do, but by the Letters of their Alphabet. Now there are two Names by which the Popes have been called, *viz. Romanos* and *Lateinos*, that is, the Head of the *Roman* or *Latin* Church: The Letters of either of which Names make up juſt the Number 666, no more nor leſs. But the ingenious Mr. *Potter* unfolds this Myſtery another Way, too large to be ſpoken of in the ſhort Time allow'd for the preſent Exerciſe; unto whoſe Treatiſe, on the Number 666, I refer thoſe who deſire to inform themſelves further concerning this Myſtery. [*Vid.* Poſtſcript at the End.]

Thirdly, Antichriſt is alſo revealed by the Place of his Reſidence, or the chief Seat of his Government: He is ſeated upon ſeven Hills, *Rev.* xvii. 9. *And here is the Mind which hath Wiſdom. The ſeven Heads are ſeven Mountains, on which the Woman ſitteth*; this is ſuch a Mark as cannot be removed. *Rome* ſtands upon ſeven Hills, and no other City in the World, as we can learn, anſwers to this Deſcription, but the City of *Rome* only.

Fourthly, Antichriſt is deſcribed by their differing Sorts of Government, which in general Terms were all called Kings, *Rev.* xvii. 10. *And there are ſeven Kings: Five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come.*

1. Five of theſe *are fallen*, i. e. laid aſide, *viz.* Kings, Conſuls, Dictators, *Decemviri*, *Triumviri* [or *Tribuni-Militum*] theſe five were laid aſide in the Apoſtles Time.

2. *One*

2. *One is:* That is, the Government by Emperors, Pagan.

3. The other *is to come:* That is, the Government by Chriſtian Emperors. And the Beaſt, *ver.* 11. or the Pope, makes the Eighth. *And the Beaſt that was and is not, even he is the Eighth*, and *is of the Seven, and goeth into Perdition. It was and is not.* It was a Pagan Empire, but now it is no more Pagan, and yet it is, *i. e.* it is as Idolatrous and as Tyrannical as ever. This Government is not in the ſame Form, as it once was; yet it is ſtill the Seat of Idolatry. The Pope is the *Eighth, and is of the Seven.* In numbering he makes up an eighth Sort of Government; yet is of the Seven, as he took his Power from the Seventh.

Fifthly, Antichriſt is alſo deſcribed by his Filthineſs, and devouring Diſpoſition, *Rev.* xvii. 3. *I ſaw a Woman ſit upon a Scarlet-coloured Beaſt, full of Names of Blaſphemy, having ſeven Heads and ten Horns.* Ver. 4. *And the Woman was arrayed in purple and ſcarlet Colour.*

1. The great Antichriſt is called *a Beaſt*, [the idolatrous Church of *Rome* is the *Woman*, and the Pope is the Beaſt that carries her, or ſupports her] and he is called a *Beaſt* for his Filthineſs: For though he forbids his Clergy to marry; yet he ſuffers them to live in all Uncleanneſs. The Church of *Rome* is called *Sodom*; ſpiritually taken, *Rev.* xi. 8. and literally taken alſo, they allow of the Sins for which *Sodom* was deſtroyed by Fire from Heaven.

2. The Pope is called a Beaſt, from his bloody Diſpoſition and Principles. O what Maſſacres and Murders have been committed, either by his Command or Approbation! It's almoſt incredible to tell of the Blood that is in

in the Skirts of that Man of Sin, and of the Church of *Rome*. Herein this weſtern *Babylon* has been more like a Beaſt of Prey, than all the Pagan Emperors. Therefore the Woman, the Church of *Rome*, that ſits upon, or is ſupported by the Beaſt, is ſaid to be drunk with the Blood of the Saints and Martyrs, *Rev.* xvii. 6. *And I ſaw the Woman drunk with the Blood of the Saints, and with the Blood of the Martyrs of Jeſus.* Rev. xviii. 24. *And in her was found the Blood of Prophets, and of Saints, and of all that were ſlain upon Earth.* Many Thouſands of the *Waldenſes* ſlain by the Sword, Fire and Maſſacre. Thirty or forty Thouſand in the Maſſacre of *Paris*. A hundred Thouſand in the Maſſacre in *Ireland*; beſides Princes, Kings and Emperors that they have poiſon'd, or otherwiſe murder'd. Add to theſe, the Burning of the Martyrs in Queen *Mary*'s Days; and many Attempts to have done the ſame, had not God, in his merciful Providence, prevented. Witneſs the *Spaniſh* Invaſion, and the moſt horrid Powder Plot. If any will ſay, What had the Pope to do with theſe Things? I anſwer, That the Pope contributed one Million of Gold towards the *Spaniſh* Invaſion, and gave them his Bleſſing. And as to the Maſſacre in *Paris*, he gave publick Thanks to God for that great Service done to the Church of *Rome*, by cutting off ſo many Hereticks; and he gave his Bleſſing to all that had a Hand in that cruel Slaughter. And much of this Nature has been done by the Popes themſelves. Pope *Phocas* having overcome his Emperor in War, firſt ſlew his Wife and Children before his Eyes, without ſparing the Infant at the Breaſt,

Breaſt, then commanded his Servants to cut the Emperor's Throat; for which Fact he was much applauded by another Pope, as having done, not only a lawful, but a meritorious Act: Thus, as his Coming has been after the Manner of Satan, *with Signs* and *lying Wonders*, ſo his Coming has been after the Working of Satan, for *his Cruelty*, ſeeking, like the great *Apollyon*, whom he may devour.

3. This is ſaid to be a *ſcarlet coloured* Beaſt, becauſe her chief Officers are clothed in Scarlet; even their *very Hats* are of that Colour; how remarkable a Deſcription is this of the Beaſt? But this ſcarlet Colour may refer alſo to what was ſaid before, of his bloody Diſpoſition and Practice.

4. This Beaſt is ſaid to be full of Names of Blaſphemy. This is applicable to the Pope; as we have already hinted; when I referred you to *Rev.* xiii. 5, 6. therefore I ſhall not ſay any Thing of it here again.

Sixthly, Antichriſt is revealed, as coming with all Power, Signs and lying Wonders, 2 *Theſſ.* ii. 9. [which is the Verſe immediately after our Text] *Even him, whoſe Coming is after the Working of Satan; with all Power, and Signs, and lying Wonders.*

1. With all Power; for he is not only powerful by Sea and Land; as ſome other Princes may be; but he pretends to have Authority over Princes and Kings of the Earth, *Rev.* xvii. 18. *The great City, that reigneth over the Kings of the Earth*; for ſo the Pope makes the popiſh Princes hold their Crowns under him; and therefore they are ſaid *to give their Power* to the Beaſt. Accordingly the Pope has ſet up and thrown down Kings and Emperors;

Thus

Thus he exalteth himſelf above all that is called God, ver. 4. and accordingly they muſt pay Tribute to him. And he alſo pretends to a Power to diſpenſe with the Laws of Nations. Thus the popiſh Religion is a traiterous Religion, as it teaches Subjects to rebel againſt their lawful Prince; and abſolves Subjects from their Oath of Allegiance to their Kings. Thus they require that all their Subjects and Followers ſhould ſubject both Bodies and Souls, their Faith, their Senſes and Reaſon, and their Conſciences too; for they will not ſuffer them to believe their own Senſes, or act their own Reaſon; but they muſt believe, upon Pain of Death and Damnation, that the Bread in the Sacrament, after Conſecration, is no longer Bread, but Fleſh and Blood, though the Bread has the *ſame Form*, the *ſame Colour*, and the *ſame Taſte*, as it had before the Conſecration. This Doctrine of Tranſubſtantiation, or the changing the Bread into the real Body of Chriſt, carries in it Self-Contradiction. For if the Lord's Supper is a Sacrament, or Sign of Spiritual Things, then it is not the very Thing: For it cannot be the Sign and the Thing ſignified alſo; and if it is the very Fleſh of Jeſus Chriſt, then it is no longer a Sacrament, or Sign of the Body and Blood of Chriſt. But Antichriſt comes with *all* Power; and that ſeems to imply a certain Power which none elſe pretends to; and that may be, of diſpoſing of Souls for Happineſs or Miſery in another World. Some he canonizes for Saints, provided they have done very worthy Deeds for their Church; and theſe have leave to go immediately to Heaven: Others, not ſo good, muſt go to Purgatory [a Romance, and Fiction of the *Romiſh* Church, to

get Money by] and yet, where it is, or under whoſe immediate Inſpection and Management, we could never yet learn; but the Pope pretends to have the Keys of it, to let in and out at Pleaſure: Others, that have been deſperately wicked, poor Souls, though they need the purifying Fire of Purgatory as much as any, are ſent directly to Hell. And all Hereticks, that die out of the Communion of the Church of *Rome*, are ſent thither without the Benefit of Purgatory.

2. Antichriſt is ſaid to come *after the Working of Satan*, i. e. ſuch Methods as Satan takes to delude Men, and to ſtrengthen his Kingdom of Darkneſs; ſuch Methods the Pope and Church of *Rome* take to deceive the Simple, and ſtrengthen the Kingdom of Antichriſt.

[1.] Denying the People the Uſe of the Bible: This is after the Working of Satan; for the *God of this World blinds the Minds of them that believe not*, leſt *the Light of the Goſpel ſhould ſhine into them.*

[2.] With falſe Interpretations of Scripture, and pleading the Fathers, rather than the holy Scriptures, for ſupporting their ſuperſtitious and idolatrous Worſhip.

[3.] Pretending to an uninterrupted Succeſſion of their Clergy, from the Apoſtles themſelves, though even then the wiſeſt of them own it done with ſome Difficulty; for Inſtance, very often they have had two Popes together, and often they have had three, each of them pretending to be the true Head of the *Roman* Church; and once, when a Woman got into the Government of the Church, which many of their own Writers own to be Matter of fact, but bewail it as the Church's Diſgrace.

[4.] Plead-

[4.] Pleading Antiquity for their Rites and Relicks, and Superſtition and Idolatries. It's true, Sin and Error are very aged, but Truth is older; and ſurely, thoſe Doctrines, and that Worſhip, which comes neareſt to the Rule of the holy Scriptures, muſt be allowed, by all wiſe Men, to be the beſt Religion.

[5.] They argue for the Truth of their Religion, from the Numbers of their Diſciples; and from the many great, noble and learned, Kings, Princes, Emperors, and whole Nations that embrace their Religion. This may be, and yet theirs not be the true Religion. Nay, it muſt be ſo, or elſe the Scripture cannot be fulfilled: For we are told, that *the whole World wondred after the Beaſt.*

[6.] They argue for the Truth of their Religion, from the outward Pomp and Grandeur of it; and from the viſible Shew of Holineſs in their pretended Faſtings; wherein they are allow'd to eat as much Fiſh as they pleaſe, are allow'd a good Cake and a Bottle of Wine, and two Bottles of Ale, for each faſting Day; and thus their Faſts are but Mock-faſts. So their holy Days; their Penances; their Pilgrimages; their Waſhing with holy Water; their Whipping themſelves, after Sin committed, are but Inventions of Satan, and the Man of Sin, to ſet them in the Place of ſincere Repentance, and of the Blood of Jeſus Chriſt.

3. The Coming of Antichriſt is alſo ſaid to be with all Signs and lying Wonders. The popiſh Religion, being not founded upon the holy Scriptures, and right Reaſon, it was needful that they ſhould betake themſelves to ſome other Method, to confirm their Doctrines, and falſe Worſhip; as by pretended Miracles;

ſometimes by the Sword; ſometimes by Maſſacres; and ſometimes by Fire and Faggot; which plainly proves it to be none of the Church of Chriſt. It would be endleſs to tell you of their pretended Signs and Wonders, which they tell us, have been wrought by the Croſs; by their holy Water; by the Virgin *Mary*; by Saint *Peter*'s Shadow; by the conſecrated Wafer; by Relicks of Saints; by the Virgin *Mary*'s Milk, or the Virgin's Tears; for they ſay they have many Bottles of them to this Day. Let it be obſerved, that God confirmed his Word with real Miracles, becauſe it was to be a Rule of Faith and Worſhip, in the Goſpel Church, to the End of the World; ſo Satan endeavours to confirm his Lies by Signs and lying Wonders. Theſe are ſome of *the Depths of Satan, as they ſpeak* [or as they call them, deep Myſteries] *Rev.* ii. 24. And the ſame is called *the Myſtery of Iniquity*, ver. 7. of our Chapter. A Myſtery; becauſe it is ſo cunningly laid and contrived, that many honeſt People do not diſcern the Cheat. There is *the Myſtery of Godlineſs*, 1 Tim. iii. 16. and that is deſigned to promote real Godlineſs: And there is the *Myſtery of Iniquity*, and that is calculated to promote a worldly Deſign, under the Cloak of Piety. The greateſt Writers among the *Roman* Catholicks, though they will not own that the Pope is Antichriſt, yet they own, that when the great Antichriſt ſhall come, he will endeavour to confirm his Doctrines and Worſhip by Signs and lying Wonders: The Legends of their Saints are full of them.

Seventhly, Antichriſt is alſo revealed *by his Traffick*, or the Wares that he commonly trades in, *Rev.* xviii. 12, 13. and among the reſt are mentioned,

tioned, *Slaves and Souls of Men*, or Bodies and Souls of Men. The Trade of Antichriſt is about *Souls*; not as faithful Miniſters, ſeeking their Salvation; but in ſelling Pardons, and delivering Souls out of the Fire of Purgatory: This is ſuch a Mark of Antichriſt as anſwers to no ſet of Men in the World, beſides the *Romiſh* Church.

Eighthly, Antichriſt is ſaid to ſit in the Temple of God, *ver.* 4. [of our Chapter] *He, as God, ſitteth in the Temple of God, ſhewing himſelf that he is God.* The Temple of old, was the only Place of God's appointed Worſhip; and the Papiſts ſay, that the Church of *Rome* is the only true Church in the World; there the Pope ſits as ſupreme Head. Though, if it is well taken notice of, he ſits but in the outward Court; for his Religion conſiſts of Externals: And ſo we have the Scripture fulfilled in his ſitting there, *Rev.* xi. 2. The outward Court *was not to be meaſured*, but to be left out, and given to be *trodden down of the* Gentiles. The Church of *Rome* may be called *Gentiles*, becauſe they corrupt the Worſhip of God by *Gentiliſm*; for in their Worſhip they ſymbolize with the *Gentiles*.

Thus I have ſhewn you, from the holy Scriptures, who is Antichriſt, and how he is revealed in theſe laſt Times, to anſwer exactly to the Deſcription of him in the Word of God. Many more Marks we have of that Man of Sin, in Places of Scripture; but theſe may ſerve to ſhew who, and where he is.

II. Our Text alſo informs us, that Antichriſt [the Man of Sin, that wicked one] is to be deſtroy'd; therefore he is alſo called, *The Son*

of

of Perdition; he that deſtroys others, in Soul and Body, is himſelf alſo to be deſtroy'd. Let it be obſerved, that none bear this Name in Scripture but *Judas* and this Man of Sin. The Reaſon may be, becauſe they both betrayed Chriſt, and both ſinned againſt their own Conſcience, and both did it from the Love of Money, and both of them called Jeſus Chriſt Maſter, and kiſſed him, and then betray'd him.

Firſt, The whole Pſeudo-Hierarchy of *Rome* ſhall be deſtroy'd: God's Viols of Wrath ſhall be poured out upon the Seat of the Beaſt, *Rev.* xiv. 8. *And there followed another Angel, ſaying*, Babylon *is fallen, is fallen, that great City; becauſe ſhe made all Nations drink of the Wine of the Wrath of her Fornication.*

Secondly, The Lord himſelf ſhall deſtroy him, with all that receive the Mark of the Beaſt, *Rev.* xvii. 14. *Theſe make War with the Lamb, and the Lamb ſhall overcome.* Strange! that *a Lamb* ſhould overcome the *Dragon* and the *Beaſt*, with ſeven *Heads and ten Horns*, i. e. with much *Power* and carnal *Policy:* But this Lamb is the Lord Jeſus Chriſt; the *Lion of the Tribe of* Juda, Rev. v. 5.

Thirdly, This ſhall be done by *the Brightneſs of his coming*; that is, with the Light, Purity and Power of the Goſpel; the Sword of the Spirit, *Iſa.* xi. 4. *He ſhall ſmite the Earth with the Rod of his Mouth, and with the Breath of his Lips ſhall he ſlay the Wicked*, Rev. xix. 15. *Out of his Mouth goeth a ſharp Sword, that with it he ſhould ſmite the Nations.*

III. I am now to make ſome proper Application of what has been ſaid.

Firſt,

First, Is Antichriſt ſo plainly [revealed; it may juſtly be wonder'd at, that ſome Proteſtants cannot ſee where or who he is: But if Papiſts themſelves cannot ſee who he is, our Apoſtle anſwers for that in the Verſes after the Text, *ver.* 10, 11, 12. Some are deceived by the Man of Sin, becauſe they received not the Goſpel in Faith and Love; though it came to ſhew them what they were to believe and do, in Order to Salvation: *For this Cauſe God ſent them ſtrong Deluſions, that they might believe a Lie, that they all might be damned* [or juſtly condemned] *who believed not the Truth, but had Pleaſure in Unrighteouſneſs.*

Secondly, What a great Mercy was the Reformation from Popery? When all the World wondered after the Beaſt, and the Doctrines and Worſhip of the Church of *Rome* were ſo much admired, by Princes and Nations round about us, God put it into the Hearts of ſome of the Kings of the Earth, to hate the Whore, and to caſt off the Yoke of Popery: And it pleaſed God to ſpirit great and good Men for the Work of the Day; and ſuch a deadly Wound was given to the Beaſt thereby, as we hope will never be healed.

Thirdly, With what Thankfulneſs ſhould we call to Mind the many Deliverances which God has wrought for theſe ſinful, but favoured Nations, from the Hands of our Popiſh Enemies? In the Mount the Lord has been ſeen; Witneſs the great Deliverance from the *Spaniſh* Invaſion, and the great Deliverance that we are this Day recognizing; when, if their Deſigns had taken Effect, they had, at one Blaſt, deſtroy'd the King, Lords and Commons, and had follow'd that fatal Blow, with the Effuſion

of

of much innocent Blood. Wicked Men *roſe up againſt us, in their Wrath, and had ſwallowed us up quick; the Waters had gone over our Soul:* But God prevented their helliſh Deſigns, and *gave us not a Prey to their Teeth: Our Soul is eſcaped as a Bird out of the Snare; our Help is in the Name of the Lord that made Heaven and Earth*, Pſal. cxxiv. And the *Wicked were ſnared in the Work of their own* Hands; *the Pit they digged for others, they themſelves fell into.*

Fourthly, What a great and ſeaſonable Mercy was the Revolution, by King *William*, our common Saviour? We were going apace to *Rome:* Our Laws and Liberties were tottering, and that which was moſt valuable to us in great Danger to be loſt. We have Reaſon to be thankful, particularly for the happy Influences and Effects of his wiſe Government, and for the happy and ſeaſonable Acceſſion of his Majeſty King *George* the Firſt, to the Crown of theſe Kingdoms: This was ſuch a Mercy, if conſider'd in all its happy Circumſtances, as is never to be forgotten. It may be ſaid of poor ſinful *Britain*, as was ſaid of *Iſrael*, God's favourite Nation of old, *Deut.* xxxiii. 29. *Happy art thou, O* Iſrael, *Who is like unto thee, O People ſaved by the Lord, the Shield of thy Help? and who is the Sword of thine Excellency! And thine Enemies ſhall be found Lyars, and thou ſhalt tread upon their high Places.*

Fifthly, What a Mercy have we to give God Thanks for, that we have now a Proteſtant King upon the Throne, and are bleſſed with a pious Queen, whoſe Heart is truly Proteſtant; and have ſuch a pleaſing and promiſing Proſpect of a long Succeſſion of Proteſtant Princes to ſit upon the Throne of theſe Kingdoms?

Let

Let us continue to pray heartily for the King and Queen, and all their royal Iſſue, *that under them we may lead a quiet and peaceable Life, in all Godlineſs and Honeſty*; that Peace and Truth may be in our Days; and that one from that illuſtrious Houſe may ſit upon the *Britiſh* Throne till Time ſhall be no more.

Sixthly, Let us pity and pray for our Proteſtant Brethren Abroad, ſuffering under Popiſh Oppreſſors, *whoſe tender Mercies* are *Cruelty:* What Reaſon to be thankful that it is not our Caſe!

Seventhly, Let us live in Love and Peace among our ſelves, and let there be no Contention among us, but who ſhall be the beſt Subjects and the beſt Chriſtians: We have Enemies enough Abroad; we have no Need to create or foment Diviſions at Home: *Live in Peace, and the God of Love and Peace* ſhall be with you. Though you may differ in ſome ſmaller Matters, as Children of the ſame Father may do, in their Faces and Temper; yet, being Brethren, let us *not fall out by the Way*.

Eighthly, Let us prize the Doctrines and Ordinances of the Goſpel more, and take Care to improve them for all the great and valuable Ends, for which they are committed to us. It is for want of Faith and Love, that ſome are carried away to believe the Signs and lying Wonders of the Church of *Rome*.

Ninthly, Let us ſearch the Scriptures more, to know the Will of God and our Duty; ſo our Saviour has commanded us, *John* v. 39. It is Mens Ignorance of the Word of God, that carries any to embrace this unſcriptural Religion.

Tenthly, Pity and pray for thoſe that are deluded. We verily believe that there are many in the Communion of the Church of *Rome*, that are very honeſt; ſome of the beſt of Neighbours; loving and kind to Fellow Creatures, very Charitable, of a very tender Diſpoſition, that hate all the Cruelty committed, or intended to be committed by any of the Members of the Church of *Rome:* Theſe believe the Church of *Rome* to be the only true Church: But, is it ſo corrupted and ſo cruel as has been ſaid? then it cannot be the *true Church* of Jeſus Chriſt, much leſs can it be *the only* true Church; not the Bride, the Lamb's Wife, for now it is become an Harlot, and the Mother of Harlots. Is the Church of *Rome* to be deſtroy'd? then it is dangerous for any to continue in its Communion: God calls ſuch to *come out of her, leſt they alſo partake of her Plagues*, Rev. xviii. 4.

Eleventhly, Pray for more of the Life and Power of Godlineſs among us; for the more that prevails, the leſs Need we have to fear that any Proteſtants will be carried away by the Impoſtures of the Church of *Rome*. Superſtition and Idolatry can never take Place, till the Life and Power of Religion is gone; and then Men commonly ſet up ſomething of their own in the Church, deſigning to recommend their Worſhip to the Acceptation of Fellow Creatures: But this will never recommend it to any but the Ignorant, or to vain Men, or to ſuch as can ſatisfy themſelves *with the Form, without the Power of Godlineſs.*

Twelfthly, While we are offering our Praiſes to the God of our Life and Mercies, this Day, for many temporal Salvations, let us thank-

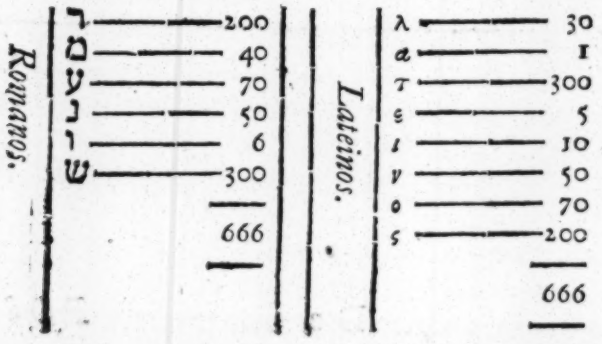
thankfully call to Mind the great Salvation, which was wrought out for our Souls, by our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; and be much concerned to ſerve and honour our great Deliverer, *Luke* i. 75. *Being delivered out of the Hands of our Enemies*, let us *ſerve him without* [ſlaviſh] *Fear, in Righteouſneſs* [towards Men] *and Holineſs* [towards God] *all the Days of our Life.*

The End of the Sermon.

POSTSCRIPT.

HAVING, in the Body of the Book, taken Notice of that Mark of Antichriſt, deſcribing him by his Name and the Number of it: Some that heard it have deſired that a few Words more may be uſed to make it a little plainer to the meaneſt Capacities.

This Way of finding out Antichriſt, by the Number of his Name, is prepared both for *Jews* and *Gentiles*; one being written and numbred according to the Uſage of the *Hebrews*, the other in the *Greek* Tongue; for both theſe Languages have the ſame Way of Numbring, that is, by the Letters of their Alphabet, and not by Figures, as we do. To make this Matter lie the plainer, I will ſet down the Letters perpendicularly; and over againſt each Letter, what Number it ſtands for in their Writings.



The

The Chriſtians, quickly after the Apoſtle *John*'s Time [who wrote this Myſtery] believed that this Number 666 ſhould ariſe out of *Lateinos* [*Iren. Adverſus Hæreſ. lib.* 5. *c.* 29.] and the Pope may fitly be called *Latine:* For,

1. He commands all his Subjects *to pray* in the *Latin* Tongue, whether the People underſtand it or not; ſo he commands, and ſo it is practiſed in his Church.

2. He keeps the Bible in the *Latin* Tongue; and he prefers it above the *Hebrew* or *Greek*; as though the old *Latin* were the Original.

3. All his Decrees and Laws are given out in *Latin*, therefore he is called *Latinos*; and he is called *Romanos*, becauſe he is the Head and Support of the Church of *Rome*, and of all that profeſs the *Romiſh* Religion; the univerſal Head of the Catholick Church. But ſome of the Papiſts have ſaid, that they could find the Number 666 in the Name of *Luther*, or ſome other of the Reformers. Suppoſe we grant them all their Aſſertion, and allow it to be true, even then they would get nothing to their Cauſe, nor weaken ours; for it is but trifling, to frame a Name out of any Letters to make up the Number 666; unleſs that Perſon or People ſo named, did alſo match to the ſeveral Characters laid down as Deſcriptions of Antichriſt. As ſuppoſe, for Inſtance, that out of the Name of *Luther*, or any other of the Reformers, they could find out the Number 666, they cannot ſay this is Antichriſt, unleſs they could find the other Marks in him; for could it be ſaid of *Luther*, or any other of the Reformers, That he had his Seat upon *Seven Hills*, or *Mountains?* Or, was he Succeſſor to *Seven other Sorts of Governments?* Or, did he *exalt himſelf above all that is called God*,

or is worſhiped? Did he claim a Power over, or did he *reign over the Kings of the Earth?* Or did he come with all *Power, Signs and lying Wonders*, and pretended Miracles? Or did he trade in *Souls of Men*; in *ſelling Pardons*; or pretending to deliver Souls out of Purgatory? If not, it is but trifling to ſay, that the Number 666 may be found in his Name. This is but a Fiction to blind their own Eyes, and to deceive the Hearts of the Simple.

But tho' the ingenious Mr. *Potter* [in his Treatiſe on the Number 666] honours the many great Men that have explained this Myſtery, by the Number of the Name of Antichriſt; yet he has explain'd it another way; that is, by extracting the ſquare Root of 666, that Number being given to find out another Number; which being found, may be a Deſcription of Antichriſt. This he does by comparing 666 [which is deſcriptive of Antichriſt and the *Romiſh* Church] with the Number 144 [which is deſcriptive of the true Church.] As 144 is raiſed out of 12 as its Root, being multiplied by it ſelf; for 12 Times 12 make 144; ſo the Number 666 ariſes from 25 as its Root; and which is the only Root that 666 can ariſe from, to anſwer to *Rome*, as 12 does to the true Church; ſo 25 anſwers to the *Romiſh* Church, being that affected Number they have choſen, inſtead of the Number 12, by which the true Church is ſet forth in Scripture.

1. Obſerve, how the Holy Ghoſt has affected the Number 12 all through the holy Scriptures, to ſpeak of the true Church, or of Things belonging to it. Twelve Apoſtles; the *New Jeruſalem* is ſaid to have twelve Gates, and twelve Angels at the Gates, and theſe bore the Names

Names of the twelve Tribes of *Iſrael*. This City had twelve Foundations; the Meaſure of the City twelve Thouſand Furlongs; the Breadth of the Wall twelve Cubits, and the Height of the Wall twelve Cubits: And in the midſt of the City the Tree of Life that bears twelve Manner of Fruits. So the Sealed were out of every Tribe twelve Thouſand, and then ſumm'd up one hundred forty four Thouſand. And the Church is ſaid to have on her Head a Crown of twelve Stars. Now obſerve, that as the Holy Ghoſt has choſen the Number 12 to ſet forth the true Church by, or Things pertaining to it, ſo the Pope and Church of *Rome* have fondly, and unaccountably affected the Number 25, [which is the Root of 666] to ſet forth their Church, together with Things belonging to it; as for Inſtance, they had at their beginning twenty five Cardinals; the Gates of *Rome* are twenty five; heretofore there were twenty five Abbots in *England*; the Gate of Saint *Peter*'s Church, which they call *Porta Sancta*, is opened but one Year in twenty five; they keep their Jubilee once in twenty five Years, which is as often again as the *Jews* were appointed to keep it; for the Papiſts are for Works of Supererogation; or doing more than God has commanded.

They have alſo the Number 25 engraven upon the Tops of their Altars [which is done by making the five Wounds of Chriſt, as they call them, five Times over, which make twenty five. They have alſo choſen the 25th Day of the Month for their Saints Days. They have added thirteen Articles to the Apoſtles Creed to make them twenty five. And the Council of *Trent*, which was ſet up to ſerve the Pope and Church of *Rome*, began with twenty five Prelates,

tes, and continued twenty five Years, and ended with the Subſcription of twenty five Arch-Biſhops. Thus far Mr. *Potter*. Thus I have given as ſhort, and as plain Account, as I could, of both the Ways of *counting the Number* of the Beaſt. Let every one take that which he likes beſt; for my part, I like them both, and thank God for the Revelation of the Myſtery; not by this ſingle Mark only, but by the many others joined with it; for this Mark, ſo plain as it is, would not have been ſufficient to have found out who, and where the great Antichriſt is, ſo as to have given the greateſt part of honeſt Chriſtians Satisfaction about it: But now he may be ſeen as pointed out by the Finger of God; that every one may beware of him, and that all under his Power may ſhake off his Yoke; eſpecially ſuch, who in their very Conſciences muſt ſay, that they diſlike its bloody Doctrine of meriting Heaven by killing of Hereticks; which could never be complied with by many tender-hearted Perſons in her Communion, if the Pope and Church had not impoſed that cruel Doctrine upon them.

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